

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057042

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:SHUM, TPHY, PINS, BU (MARINOV, STEFAN MARINOV)

SUBJECT:MARINOV CASE

REF: A) SOFIA 511 B) SOFIA 509 C) STATE 52827

1. EMBASSY COMMENTS RE PRESS GUIDANCE APPRECIATED. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE NOT DESCRIBE MARINOV AS A "DISSIDENT" IN OUR DISCUSSIONS OF MATTER AND IN REPLYING TO PRESS QUERIES. DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, DOES BELIEVE THAT IN ANY PLAY OF STORY BY WESTERN PRESS IT IS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT MARINOV WILL BE DESCRIBED AS A DISSIDENT. THEREFORE, AS EMBASSY NOTED, QUESTION DESCRIBED HIM AS SUCH WHILE OUR REPLY DID NOT USE TERM.

2. IT IS DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT CHRISTOPHER SNOW'S VERSION OF HIS MEETINGS WITH MARINOV REMAINS UNCHALLENGED TO DATE. DEPARTMENT RECORDS INDICATE THAT FSLE RECEPTIONIST KIROVA
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DID NOT ENTER ON DUTY AT EMBASSY SOFIA UNTIL APRIL 12, A FULL 9 DAYS AFTER REPORTED DATE OF INCIDENT. THEREFORE, IT IS QUITE PROBABLE THAT SHE IS RECALLING A LATER INCIDENT, AS SUSPECTED BY FORMER CONSUL MCLAIN (STATE 20933). HOWEVER, SHOULD FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF EXTANT MARINE LOGS AT EMBASSY SOFIA PRODUCE A CONFIRMABLE DATE FOR INCIDENT, OUR EVALUATION COULD WELL CHANGE.

3. DEPARTMENT ALSO NOTES THAT STATEMENT PROVIDED BY FSLE CONSULAR ASSISTANT APPEARS TO CONTRADICT THAT OF RECEPTIONIST BY NOT REFERRING TO ANY TELEPHONE CALL MADE FROM HER OFFICE TO BULGARIAN MEDICAL AUTHORITIES. ADDITIONALLY, THE VERY BRIEF NATURE OF HER STATEMENT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO VERIFY THAT SHE IS NOT THINKING OF SAME, LATER INCIDENT THAT WE BELIEVE KIROVA TO BE DESCRIBING. FINALLY, DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT EMBASSY SOFIA HAVE CONVINCED DEPARTMENT THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CONSULAR ASSISTANT WOULD AT BEST BE SUSPECT DUE TO LONG-STANDING ASSUMPTION THAT SHE HAS MORE THAN NORMAL OBLIGATIONS TO BULGARIAN SECURITY APPARATUS. IN LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, DEPARTMENT PROPOSES THAT ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION BE MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE:THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE VIEWS MR. MARINOV'S CHARGES AS A SERIOUS MATTER. WHILE OUR EMBASSIES DO NOT KEEP RECORDS OF EVERY VISITOR, OUR EXTENSIVE AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF HIS CHARGES HAS SHOWN THAT MR. MARINOV VISITED OUR EMBASSY IN SOFIA, BULGARIA SEVERAL TIMES AND THAT ON ONE OCCASION HE SAID HE HAD JUST ESCAPED FROM PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC. WHILE WE HAVE OBTAINED DIFFERING RECOLLECTIONS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF MR. MARINOV'S DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY ON THAT OCCASION, WHICH TOOK PLACE NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO, WE HAVE FOUND NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THE OFFICERS CONCERNED INFORMED THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES OF MR. MARINOV'S PRESENCE AT THE EMBASSY OR REQUESTED THAT HE BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. UNQUOTE

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4. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE ELIMINATE FIRST SENTENCE RE MARINOV'S "MEMBERSHIP" IN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. INSTEAD, REPLY SHOULD STATE: QUOTE: MR. MARINOV CLAIMS ASSOCIATION WITH AN ENTITY HE IDENTIFIES AS "THE SOFIA LABORATORY FOR FUNDAMENTAL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS". HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING THAT INSTITUTION. UNQUOTE. REPLY WOULD THEN CONTINUE AS GIVEN REF (C).

5. WE NOTE THAT CHRISTOPHER SNOW RECALLED THAT IN AN EFFORT TO VERIFY MARINOV'S CREDENTIALS, HE DID SEND A LETTER TO PROF. GOUDSMIT OF PHYSICAL REVIEW, AND ALSO CONVEYED REPLY TO MARINOV. EMBASSY P&C OFFICE FILES MAY HAVE RECORD OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE, BELIEVED TO DATE FROM AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, 1973. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER COMMENTS MADE BY MARINOV RE HIS PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH EMBASSY. WHEN DEPARTMENT CONTACTED FORMER P&C OFFICER ALEX BLOOMFIELD WHO WAS AT SOFIA 1962-64, HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF MARINOV OR ANY OTHER BULGARIAN WHO WOULD HAVE MET INFORMALLY DURING THAT PERIOD.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FURTHER COMMENTS ASAP.
FOLLOWING THEIR RECEIPT WE WILL CABLE FULL AGREED TEXT OF
CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE TO MAKE CERTAIN BOTH EMBASSY AND DE-
PARTMENT HAVE IDENTICAL VERSIONS. (WE PLAN TO REFER TO
MARINOV AS "MR." RATHER THAN "DR." THROUGHOUT SINCE WE
NOTE THAT HE DOES NOT SEEM TO CLAIM THE TITLE FOR HIMSELF.)

7. REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSAL REF (C)
ON POSSIBILITY OF OUR ASSISTING MARINOV IN PUBLISHING HIS
BOOK BY REFERING HIM TO U.S. OR OTHER PUBLISHERS WHO MIGHT
BE INTERESTED IN SUCH MATERIAL. OR TO APPROPRIATE INTER-
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS UNESCO.
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